



California Postsecondary Education Commission

770 L Street, Suite 1160 • Sacramento, California 95814

www.cpec.ca.gov • (916) 445-1000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

Julia Blair

JBlair@cpec.ca.gov • (916) 445-1000

New GI Bill will cover CSU and UC costs — college benefits to double *Veterans' enrollments also expected to double*

SACRAMENTO — September 19, 2008 — Education benefits available to California's servicemen and women will more than double due to the passage of the 21st Century GI Bill, according to a recent report by the California Postsecondary Education Commission. When the bill becomes effective in August 2009, it will offer the largest expansion of educational benefits to active duty service members, veterans, National Guard personnel and Reservists since the original GI Bill of 1944.

Commission members will discuss this issue on September 23, the first day of the Commission's quarterly two-day meeting in Sacramento.

Of all the states, California has the most veterans in college, about 30,000 enrolled in spring 2008. Nearly 5,000 were at UC and CSU, and 17,000 were enrolled at community colleges.

"The increased benefits of the new GI Bill will allow veterans to focus on school and not have to worry about the financial burden of attending college as a civilian," said Murray J. Haberman, the Commission's Executive Director.

Undergraduates will be eligible to receive up to \$22,165 per academic year toward college costs. This will be the first time that costs at UC and CSU will be completely covered by the GI benefits. Veterans currently receive benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill of 1985, which does not include an allowance for tuition. As a result, veterans have tended to enroll in the lower-cost community college system.

Commission researchers have analyzed enrollment trends of veterans and found that the new GI Bill doubles benefits, likely resulting in 34,000 more veterans and active-duty personnel enrolling in college by 2010. The greatest increase in enrollment is expected to be at community colleges. California could receive up to \$600 million in additional GI Bill education benefits annually.

—MORE—

“California’s community college campuses have been a welcoming environment for veterans entering college after military service. Community college campuses will continue to provide services and assistance to veterans to aid in their success as students,” said Olivia K. Singh, the Commission’s chair.

Palomar College in San Marcos (www.palomar.edu) is the state’s top campus for students receiving GI Bill benefits — 539 in 2007–08. Also at the meeting, the Commission will discuss a proposal from Palomar Community College District to establish an off-campus center. The center is designed to meet rapid population growth in north San Diego County. The Commission will vote on this project.

In 2006, San Diego County voters passed Proposition M, a \$694 million bond initiative for modernization and expansion to Palomar College and its proposed North Palomar Educational Center.

This report is titled *The 21st Century GI Bill: What it Means for California* and is available at http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0809/DR_GIBILL.pdf.

Data tables suitable for reproduction are available upon request. Interviews with research staff: press@cpec.ca.gov or 916-445-1000.

Other Topics of Interest

At the September 23-24 meeting, the Commission will also discuss the following reports:

- A proposal from UC Riverside to open a medical school in 2012.
- A report on how community college is becoming less affordable, even for commuter students living in a parent’s home

A meeting agenda and reports may be viewed at: www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agnd0809.asp.

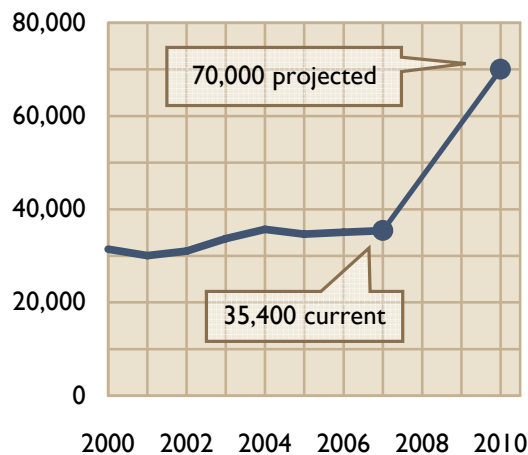
The Commission audio-streams its meetings at media.cpec.ca.gov/media

#

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. The Commission’s primary focus is to ensure that the state’s educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.

Veterans' enrollments will increase

The state's veteran enrollments at public and private institutions are expected to reach 70,000 over the next few years.



2000–07 figures from U.S. Veterans Association. Enrollment projection by Commission staff, based on a statistical analysis of education costs, veterans' enrollments and veterans' benefits.

Top campuses with students receiving GI Bill benefits

Campus		Students
Community Colleges	Palomar	539
	Southwestern	516
	Grossmont	467
	San Diego City	433
	American River	394
	Riverside	387
	Mt. San Jacinto	340
	Fresno City	332
	Mira Costa	328
	Mt. San Antonio	315
CSU	San Diego	531
	Sacramento	390
	Fresno	291
	Northridge	254
	Fullerton	249
UC	Davis	147
	Los Angeles	139
	Berkeley	115

Student count includes veterans, dependents, active duty personnel, and reservists. Data from CCC Troops to College, 2008.

Annual Benefits

	Montgomery GI Bill	21st Century GI Bill
Tuition	None	\$7,703
Living allowance	\$9,900	\$13,041
Books	None	\$1,000
Total	\$9,900	\$21,747